

Oklahoma Program for Continuing Education in Social Work

You Are Invited

Learning From Animals

1-4 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 30, 2019

OU-Tulsa Schusterman Center

4502 E. 41st St.

Learning Center, Room 231

Tulsa, OK 74135

3 hours of CEU credits

Facilitators:

Dallas Pettigrew, M.S.W.

It seems like Oklahoma is on the wrong end of all the lists. We incarcerate people at higher rates than any other place on earth. Our children have the highest rates of multiple traumas in the United States, and three of Oklahoma's towns are on the list of 10 lowest life expectancies in the United States. One of those towns, Stilwell, is Dallas Pettigrew's home town.

Oklahoma is the perfect storm for poor outcomes. Oklahoma is home to 39 Federally Recognized Tribes, each having been relocated here from their original homelands. We have natural disasters of all kinds, high rates of poverty, domestic violence, substance abuse, untreated mental illness, food insecurity, domestic terrorism, and so many other problems. Oklahoma is home and is full of wonderful people. What can we do to turn things around for our friends, families, and neighbors who are struggling? We can learn the way our tribal ancestors did.

The indigenous people of what is now North America often passed information through an oral tradition. There were no books or scrolls printed over the thousands of years before European explorers landed. Knowledge was passed on through story-telling. Often those stories featured animals in starring roles. Cherokee stories tell us how the red bird got her color, about the trickiness of the rabbit and many others.

Now science is proving what indigenous people have long known - that we can learn a lot from the animals around us. In this presentation we will discuss the lessons we can learn about parenting from crows, how rats treat substance abuse and more. Learning from parables is powerful. We easily remember and share these lessons because we remember stories better than text books. Let's take a few hours to learn from our animal friends, and maybe turn things around for Oklahoma.

Master Presenter

Dallas Pettigrew is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and worked there for over 13 years, serving in child welfare, human service administration and behavioral health. He is a co-founder of The HERO Project, Cherokee Nation's children's behavioral health system. He also worked for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in Cherokee, North Carolina, where he helped open their child welfare and adult protection services. He is a global leader for Young Children, part of the World Forum Foundation, and serves on the Indigenous Peoples' Action Group.

Pettigrew graduated with his master in social work from OU-Tulsa in 2012. He currently teaches macro-focused graduate social work courses, like Policy Practice and Advocacy and Human Diversity and Societal Oppression. He also works with tribal child welfare programs on training, workforce development and recruiting tribal members into the School of Social Work. He is the chair of the training subcommittee of the Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Association.

Besides Pettigrew's professional experience, he is a former foster parent for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services and is an adoptive father. He enjoys hiking, kayaking and exploring in his free time.

3 CEUs available to LCSW/LMSW

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